

IV. Remarks

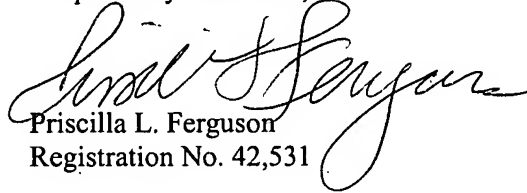
The specification has been amended to include a cross reference to the priority applications, and to correct certain typographical and grammatical errors. The corrections to the specification made herein are supported throughout the original specification, for example, at page 7, lines 1 – 19.

Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled, and Claims 1, 3 – 8, and 10 – 12 have been amended, which cancellations and amendments were made for reasons unrelated to the patentability of the invention. Thus, claims 1 – 12 are now pending.

The filing fee has been calculated according to the above-amendments. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned if an interview would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: Dec. 16, 2005

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